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EXAMINER

CHANNAVAJALA, SRIRAMA T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2166

DATE MAILED: 06/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/868,640

Applicant(s)

IMAMURA, KAYO

Examiner

Srirama Channavajjala

Art Unit

2166

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 April 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 16 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 15 and 17-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 10-14 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/5/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to RCE***

1. Claims 1,15-19 have been amended [4/5/2005]
2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114 including fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114.
3. Examiner acknowledges applicant's amendment filed on 7/22/2004.
4. Claims 1,3-19 have been amended on 7/22/2004
5. Claims 20-21 have been cancelled on 7/22/2004.

### **Drawings**

6. The drawings filed on 8/4/2002 are approved by the Draftsperson under 37 CFR 1.84 or 1.152.

### ***Priority***

7. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) based upon an application SI.No.# 2000-040844 filed in Japan on 2/18/2000, SI.No.11-312561, filed on 11/2/1999.

***Information Disclosure Statement***

8. The supplemental information disclosure statement filed on 4/5/2005 comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), has been considered, a copy of each is herewith enclosed with this office action,.

It is however, noted that the document **3061933 [IDS dated: 7/22/2004, 4/5/2005]**, and 1999-68557 {IDS filed on 10/14/2004}, 4/5/2005 is not considered because these documents are NOT IN ENGLISH. Applicant is hereby required to submit at least ABSTRACT in English

9. The information disclosure statement filed on 7/22/2004, 10/14/2004 comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), has been considered, a copy of each is herewith enclosed with this office action.

10. The information disclosure statement filed on 9/28/2001, 10/25/2001, and 12/4/2001 comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), has been considered, a copy of each is herewith enclosed with this office action, paper no. # 6.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claims 1-9,15,17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morse et al. [hereafter Morse], filed on Oct 21, 1999 in view of Venkat N Gudivada et al. [hereafter Venkat], "spatial knowledge representation and retrieval in 3-D image databases", appeared in multimedia computing and systems, 1995 proceedings, pp 90-97

12. As to claim 1, 17-18, Morse teaches a system which including 'a housing related commodity sales support system that provides information regarding a housing-related commodity to a computer of a prospective purchaser via a network system' [col 8, line 64-67, fig 1], Morse teaches property related computer network, more specifically, property viewing system where potential customers or purchaser accessing via network as detailed in fig 1, computer network corresponds to fig 1, element 108;

'a database which stores housing display data for display of an image of a housing including information regarding a layout of the housing' [see fig 1, fig 36B-37], Morse specifically teaches virtual tour where data is stored in virtual property tour memory area as detailed in fig 1, housing display data for display of an image of a housing corresponds to fig 36B-37;

'a browser provider that provides the computer of the prospective purchaser with a browser that enables the prospective purchaser to see a image of the housing on the computer in accordance with the database'[col 11, line 62-67, col 12, line 4-8, col 20, line 33-40, fig 54], Morse specifically teaches internet embodiment screen display for example as detailed in fig 24,25A-25C that including browsing electronic properties, further, Morse directed to virtual tour of the property that display various selected properties as detailed in fig 54;

'the browser including atleast a first display performing section that enables a display of an interior of the housing' [col 19, line 25-30, line 47-50, fig 45A], Morse specifically teaches screen display of virtual tour of the property that including images; 'a second display performing section that enables the prospective purchaser to move, within the displayed housing, a viewpoint from which the interior of the housing is seen, and to have a view as if the prospective purchaser is moving in the interior of the housing' [col 19, line 47-58, col 20, line 15-19, line 33-40, fig 45A, 47A,, fig 54], Morse specifically teaches first display, second display screens for example as detailed in fig 45A, 47 A, further it is noted that Morse specifically teaches virtual tour that including visualizing or movable photograph as part of a virtual tour as detailed in col 20, line 33-35;

'a data transmitter that transmits the housing display data stored in the database to the computer of the prospective purchaser via the network system in response to a request from the browser provided on the computer of the prospective purchaser' [col 22, line 58-67]. It is however, noted that Morse does not specifically teach 'three-

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dimensional image', although Morse specifically teaches virtual touring of the properties viewing by purchaser or persons having access to the public communications network such as detailed in fig 1, further it is also noted that Morse teaches multiple photographs or digital images were stitched or spliced together using panoramic photographic techniques that supported by well known computer software programs such as PhotoVista and like [see col 21, line 1-3]. On the other hand, Venkat disclosed 'three-dimensional image' [see page 91, item 2, fig 1-4], especially, 3-D images.

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to incorporate the teachings of Venkat et al. into electronic property viewing system for providing virtual tours using communications network of Morse et al. because both Morse and Venkat are directed to retrieval of images, more specifically, Morse is directed to viewing, retrieval of images that related to electronic real estate properties [see fig 1, Abstract] , while Venkat is directed to spatial knowledge representation and retrieval in 3-D image, more specifically retrieval in 3-D image in multimedia applications such as architectural design, interior design, real estate marketing and like as detailed in page 90, Abstract, introduction.

one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to incorporate the teachings of Venkat et al. into electronic property viewing system for providing virtual tours using communications network of Morse et al. because that would have allowed users of Morse to incorporate 3-D image retrieval from the database, that further allows users of Morse to specifically query specific interior design of the property, also compares with other 3-D images for similarity, thus bringing the

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advantages of architectural design especially in real estate marketing information is represented in virtual touring, 3-D images.

13. As to claim 2, Venkat disclosed 'wherein the database is so configured as to store the housing display data in conjunction with information regarding an object of real estate' [see page 90, introduction], especially retrieving images in the database related to real estate market.

14. As to claim 3, Morse disclosed 'notice receiver that receives a notice from one of a computer of a seller of the real estate object and the computer of the prospective purchaser that sales negotiation is going on with respect to a particular real estate object ' [col 8, line 44-56, line 64-67, fig 1], typically, user either seller or purchaser, real estate objects corresponds to electronic property virtual tour of the real estate property; 'wherein the data transmitter is configured as to bar transmission of the housing display data relating to the real estate object under negotiation to a computer of another prospective purchaser when the notice receiver receives the notice' [col 9, line 9-17].

15. As to claim 4, Morse disclosed 'purchaser information receiver that receives purchaser identifying information which identifies the prospective purchaser from the computer of the prospective purchaser' [fig 6B, col 10, line 55-64];

'a contact information transmitter which, upon receipt of the purchaser identifying information by the purchaser information receiver, transmits address information of at



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least one of the prospective purchaser and a seller selling the real estate object, to the computer of the other' [col 11, line 7-17], seller selling the real estate object corresponds to real estate agent.

16. As to claim 5, Morse disclosed 'a sales contract notice receiver that receives a notice from one of the computer of a seller of the real estate object and a purchaser that a sales contract regarding a real estate object has been completed' [col 11, line 32-45];

'a database which, upon receipt of the notice by the sales contract notice receiver, stores information regarding the completed sales contract in conjunction with the address information of the purchaser who purchased the real estate object, information regarding a date of completing the sales contract, and the housing display data for the purchased real estate object' [col 12, line 32-37];

'a memory that stores a reforming plan that restructures the purchased real estate object in the future, the reforming plan being created based on the housing display data' [col 16, line 60-67, col 17, line 1-2];

'a calculator that calculates, based on the sales contract completion date, a time that the reforming plan is to be proposed' [col 17, line 3-9, fig 28B];

'a reforming plan presenter that presents the reforming plan to the purchaser when the calculated time arrives' [col 17, line 10-20].

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17. As to claim 6, Morse disclosed 'a data registration tool provider means which, upon request from a computer of a real estate object seller, provides via the network system the database with a data registration tool with which the housing display data is registered via the network system' [col 8, line 48-56, col 17, line 36-44].

18. As to claim 7, Morse disclosed 'the database is configured to store a plurality of interior display data including information regarding an interior equipment of the housing' [fig 36C-36D];

'the browser includes a third display section which displays an interior manipulating menu with which the prospective purchaser selects the interior equipment to be displayed in the virtual space from the interior display data' [col 16, line 64-67, col 17, line 1-2], interior display data corresponds to bedrooms, baths and associated fields or records as detailed in col 16, line 65-67; interior manipulating menu corresponds to pull down menu, fig 28A, element 242.

19. As to claim 8, Morse disclosed 'the database is configured to store the interior display data in conjunction with information regarding a commodity of the interior of the housing' [col 16, line 44-50].

20. As to claim 9, Morse disclosed 'data registration tool provider which upon request from a terminal of the computer of an interior commodity seller, provides via the network

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system the database with a data registration tool with which the interior display data is registered via the network system' [col 15, line 1-7].

21. As to claim 15, Morse teaches a system which including 'a housing related commodity sales support system capable of providing information regarding a housing-related commodity to a computer of a prospective purchaser via a network system' [col 8, line 64-67, fig 1], Morse teaches property related computer network, more specifically, property viewing system where potential customers or purchaser accessing via network as detailed in fig 1, computer network corresponds to fig 1, element 108;

'a database which stores a plurality of interior display data for display of an image of a housing and including information regarding interior equipment of the housing [see fig 1, fig 36B-37], Morse specifically teaches virtual tour where data is stored in virtual property tour memory area as detailed in fig 1, housing display data for display of an image of a housing corresponds to fig 36B-37, interior display data corresponds to virtual property tour that including interior information;

"a housing data creating tool provider which, upon request from the computer of the prospective purchaser provides via the network system a housing data creating tool with which housing display data including information regarding a layout of the housing is created' [col 15, line 25-33], Morse specifically teaches tour number for a specific house address for virtual tour as detailed in col 15, line 25-33, fig 22A,

'a browser provider that provides a browser to the computer of the prospective purchaser in response to a request from the computer, the browser enabling the prospective purchaser to view housing [col 11, line 62-67, col 12, line 4-8, col 20, line 33-40, fig 54], Morse specifically teaches internet embodiment screen display for example as detailed in fig 24,25A-25C that including browsing electronic properties, further, Morse directed to virtual tour of the property that display various selected properties, and displaying virtual housing details as shown in fig 54; 'including at least a first display performing section which displays the interior of the housing virtual space based on the housing display data'[col 19, line 25-30, line 47-50, fig 45A], Morse specifically teaches screen display of virtual tour of the property that including images; 'a second display performing section that enables the prospective purchase to move, within the displayed housing, a view point from which the interior of the housing is seen and to have a view as if the prospective purchaser is moving in the interior of the housing' [col 19, line 47-58, col 20, line 15-19, line 33-40, fig 45A, 47A,, fig 54], Morse specifically teaches first display, second display screens for example as detailed in fig 45A, 47 A, further it is noted that Morse specifically teaches virtual tour that including visualizing or movable photograph as part of a virtual tour as detailed in col 20, line 33-35; 'a third display performing section that enables the prospective purchaser to select the interior equipment of the housing to be displayed in the virtual space from the plurality of interior display data' [[col 16, line 64-67, col 17, line 1-2, col 18, line 8-17], Morse specifically teaches displaying images of interior housing for example bed rooms, number of baths and like as detailed in col 16, line 66-67;

'a data transmitter that transmits the interior display data stored in the database to the computer of the prospective purchaser via the network system in response to a request from the browser provided on the computer of the prospective purchaser' [col 22, line 58-67]. It is however, noted that Morse does not teach 'three-dimensional display', although Morse specifically teaches virtual touring of the properties viewing by purchaser or persons having access to the public communications network such as detailed in fig 1, further it is also noted that Morse teaches multiple photographs or digital images were stitched or spliced together using panoramic photographic techniques that supported by well known computer software programs such as PhotoVista and like [see col 21, line 1-3]. On the other hand, Venkat disclosed 'three-dimensional image' [see page 91, item 2, fig 1-4], especially, 3-D images.

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to incorporate the teachings of Venkat et al. into electronic property viewing system for providing virtual tours using communications network of Morse et al. because both Morse and Venkat are directed to retrieval of images, more specifically, Morse is directed to viewing, retrieval of images that related to electronic real estate properties [see fig 1, Abstract] , while Venkat is directed to spatial knowledge representation and retrieval in 3-D image, more specifically retrieval in 3-D image in multimedia applications such as architectural design, interior design, real estate marketing and like as detailed in page 90, Abstract, introduction.

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one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to incorporate the teachings of Venkat et al. into electronic property viewing system for providing virtual tours using communications network of Morse et al. because that would have allowed users of Morse to incorporate 3-D image retrieval from the database, that further allows users of Morse to specifically query specific interior design of the property, also compares with other 3-D images for similarity, thus bringing the advantages of architectural design especially in real estate marketing information is represented in virtual touring, 3-D images.

22. As to claim 19, Morse teaches a system which including 'a computer readable storage medium that stores a housing-related commodity sales support program activating a computer as a browser to obtain the housing display data from a predetermined database via network system' [fig 1, col 8, line 44-56, col 9, line 9-12], Morse specifically teaches client computer, server computer are connected to the a network work i.e., Internet element 104, further each web server having virtual property tour memory area that corresponds to storing housing related commodity information as detailed in fig 1; 'the browser including at least a first display performing section which displays an interior of a housing, housing data' [[col 11, line 62-67, col 12, line 4-8, col 20, line 33-40, fig 54; col 19, line 25-30, line 47-50, fig 45A ], Morse specifically teaches internet embodiment screen display for example as detailed in fig 24,25A-25C that including browsing electronic properties, further, Morse directed to virtual tour of the property that display various selected properties, and displaying virtual housing details

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as shown in fig 54; it is also noted that Morse specifically teaches screen display of virtual tour of the property that including images;

‘a second display performing section that enables the prospective purchase to move, within the displayed housing, a view point from which the interior of the housing is seen and to have a view as if the prospective purchaser is moving in the interior of the housing’ [col 19, line 47-58, col 20, line 15-19, line 33-40, fig 45A, 47A,, fig 54], Morse specifically teaches first display, second display screens for example as detailed in fig 45A, 47 A, further it is noted that Morse specifically teaches virtual tour that including visualizing or movable photograph as part of a virtual tour as detailed in col 20, line 33-35; ‘a third display performing section that enables the prospective purchaser to select the interior equipment of the housing to be displayed in the virtual space from the plurality of interior display data’ [[col 16, line 64-67, col 17, line 1-2, col 18, line 8-17], Morse specifically teaches displaying images of interior housing for example bed rooms, number of baths and like as detailed in col 16, line 66-67;

It is however, noted that Morse does not teach ‘three-dimensional display’, although Morse specifically teaches virtual touring of the properties viewing by purchaser or persons having access to the public communications network such as detailed in fig 1, further it is also noted that Morse teaches multiple photographs or digital images were stitched or spliced together using panoramic photographic techniques that supported by well known computer software programs such as

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PhotoVista and like [see col 21, line 1-3]. On the other hand, Venkat disclosed 'three-dimensional image' [see page 91, item 2, fig 1-4], especially, 3-D images.

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to incorporate the teachings of Venkat et al. into electronic property viewing system for providing virtual tours using communications network of Morse et al. because both Morse and Venkat are directed to retrieval of images, more specifically, Morse is directed to viewing, retrieval of images that related to electronic real estate properties [see fig 1, Abstract] , while Venkat is directed to spatial knowledge representation and retrieval in 3-D image, more specifically retrieval in 3-D image in multimedia applications such as architectural design, interior design, real estate marketing and like as detailed in page 90, Abstract, introduction.

One of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to incorporate the teachings of Venkat et al. into electronic property viewing system for providing virtual tours using communications network of Morse et al. because that would have allowed users of Morse to incorporate 3-D image retrieval from the database, that further allows users of Morse to specifically query specific interior design of the property, also compares with other 3-D images for similarity, thus bringing the advantages of architectural design especially in real estate marketing information is represented in virtual touring, 3-D images



***Allowable Subject Matter***

23. Claim 10 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for indicating allowable subject matter: The present Invention relates to housing related commodity sales support system, more specifically displaying housing data including layout information regarding housings, inner space of the housing, virtual space on the thermal of a computer to the prospective purchaser, further user manipulates a viewpoint or location of viewing in the virtual space and to provide the user with the data via a network system.

The closest prior art Morse et al. US Patent No. 6839880 is directed to electronic property viewing, providing virtual tours using network, more specifically, electronic property virtual tour system for use on a communications network particularly on WWW network, accessing, creating, viewing real estate properties [see Abstract, fig 1]. Venkat N Gudivada et al. " Spatial knowledge representation and retrieval in 3-D image" published 1995 is directed to multimedia retrieval information such as architectural design, interior design, real estate marketing information [see Abstract, introduction, page 90].

It is however, noted that both Morse, Venkat do not specifically teach "the database is configured to store furniture display data including information regarding a

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configuration of a furniture to be arranged in the housing; the browser includes a fourth display section which displays a furniture manipulating menu with which a user selects the furniture to be displayed in the virtual space from the furniture display data”.

Claims 11-14 dependent on claim 10 is also allowable.

As to Claim 16, both Morse et al. US Patent No. 6839880, Venkat N

Gudivada et al. “ Spatial knowledge representation and retrieval in 3-D image”

published 1995 either singularly or in combination, fail to anticipate or render obvious

the recited feature teach “the database is configured to store furniture display data for

displaying an image of a furniture and including information regarding a configuration of

furniture to be arranged in an interior of a housing”; “a third display performing section

that enables the user to select furniture to be display in the housing in the virtual space

from the plurality of furniture display data . These features together with the other

limitations of the independent Claims are novel and non-obvious over the prior art of

record.

### ***Response to Arguments***

24. Applicant's arguments filed on 4/5/2005 with respect to claims 1-19, arguments at page 11-13 have been fully considered, further claims 1-9, 15, 17-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morse et al., filed on Oct 21, 1999 in view of Venkat N Gudivada et al., "spatial knowledge representation and retrieval in 3-D image databases", appeared in multimedia computing and systems, 1995 proceedings, pp 90-97 as detailed above.

### ***Conclusion***

#### **The prior art made of record**

- a. US Patent No. 6839880
- b. Venkat N Gudivada et al. [hereafter Venkat], "spatial knowledge representation and retrieval in 3-D image databases", appeared in multimedia computing and systems, 1995 proceedings, pp 90-97

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Srirama Channavajjala whose telephone number is 571-272-4108. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM Eastern Time.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, ALAM HOSAIN T, can be reached on **(571)272-3978**. The fax phone numbers for the organization where the application or proceeding is assigned is 703/872-9306 Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free)

SC  
Patent Examiner.  
April 26, 2005.

  
**SRIRAMA CHANNAVAJJALA**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**